

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 191711Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 562

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1706

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SENV, EEC

SUBJECT: GERMAN REGULATIONS ON LEAD IN GAS

REF: (A) 75 BONN 18677, (B) 75 EC BRUSSELS 9742, (C) 73 EC A-463

1. ON FEBRUARY 18 WE SPOKE WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL VERDIANI, OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR THE INTERNAL MARKET, REGARDING THE GERMAN LAW ON LEAD CONTENT IN GASOLINE. VERDIANI SAID THAT THE DECISION OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW DURING A TWO-YEAR TRANSITIONAL PERIOD THE SALE IN GERMANY OF GASOLINE WITH OVER .15 GRAM/LITER OF LEAD REMOVES TO A LARGE EXTENT, THE BARRIER TO INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE POSED ORIGINALLY BY THE GERMAN LAW (SEE REFTELS). AN OUTSTANDING PROBLEM REMAINS, HOWEVER. IMPORTERS HAVE EXPERIENCED DELAYS AND EXCESSIVE RED-TAPE IN OBTAINING FROM THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES THE LICENSE REQUIRED TO IMPORT THE HIGHER LEAD-CONTENT GASOLINE INTO GERMANY. THE COMMISSION HAS BROUGHT THE PROBLEM TO THE ATTENTION OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND IS AWAITING ASSURANCES FROM THEM THAT THE LICENSES WILL BE GRANTED PROMPTLY

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AND IN A SEMI-AUTOMATIC FASHION.

2. DURING THE CONVERSATION, VERDIANI MENTIONED THAT THE COMMISSION MAY BE REVISING ITS DRAFT DIRECTIVE LIMITING THE LEAD CONTENT IN GASOLINE. THE IDEA WOULD BE TO HAVE TWO DIRECTIVES. THE FIRST DIRECTIVE COVERING AN INITIAL TWO-YEAR PERIOD WOULD LIMIT LEAD CONTENT TO A .40 GRAM/LITER MAXIMUM FOR BOTH REGULAR AND HIGH TEST. RATHER THAN DROP DOWN TO A .15 GRAM/LITER MAXIMUM FOR REGULAR FOLLOWING THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD AS PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT DIRECTIVE, THE NEW APPROACH CALLS FOR A STUDY OF THE ISSUE FURTHER TO DETERMINE IF, IN FACT, PERMISSIBLE LEAD CONTENT SHOULD BE LOWERED, RAISED OR KEPT THE SAME AS SUGGESTED IN THE DRAFT DIRECTIVE. VERDIANI SAID THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ON THE ISSUE IS QUITE CONFLICTING AND MORE RESEARCH WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GASOLINE, LAW, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, LEAD, TRADE CONTROLS, FUEL ADDITIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU01676
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760064-0934
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760236/aaaabeyptel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BONN 18677, 76 EC BRUSSELS 9742
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GERMAN REGULATIONS ON LEAD IN GAS
TAGS: ETRD, SENV, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006